

Christ Church
Btw. 6th and 7th on G St., S.E.
Washington, D. C.

HABS NO. DC-48
HABS
DC
WASH
139.

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Columbia
Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

Historic American Buildings Survey
Delos Smith, District Officer
Washington, D. C.

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

CHRIST CHURCH
622 C Street, S. E.
Washington
D.C.

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Though Washington was a full fledged city in 1794, and Georgetown had been a municipality for many years, they were still in Maryland, and it was necessary to apply to the Maryland legislature for the establishment of any new parish that might be wanted.

At the session of the Maryland Assembly of 1794, there was accordingly passed on December 26th an act to form a new parish by the name of Washington Parish, "to include the city of Washington and Georgetown on the Potomac."

On May 25, 1795, there was held in the new parish, according to the first entry in its record, "a meeting of the Protestant Episcopal inhabitants, in consequence of publick advertisement," and a full vestry was elected. On July 14th of the same year, Rev. George Ralph was called as rector.

Service was conducted in a frame church building on New Jersey Avenue and D Street until 1807. In 1806, an offer of the present site by William Prout was accepted. Subscriptions were taken for the erection of a new church, and on August 9, 1807, the first service was held, "in the new church near the navy yard." On August 20th, it was named by the vestry, Christ Church. Of the pews one was assigned to the President of the United States, one to Mr. Prout, and one to the Rector, the rest were sold or rented. According to tradition, Madison, Jefferson, and J. Q. Adams attended services here.

It was free of debt and ready for consecration on October 8th 1809, when it was dedicated and consecrated to Almighty God by The Right Rev. Thomas John Claggett, who designates himself, in his certificate, as "Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church for the State of Maryland, and that part of the District of Columbia north of the Potomac."

Though improvements, additions, and changes have been made from time to time, the walls and the general plan of the structure are substantially the same as when it was consecrated in 1809. The Parish retained within its boundaries the whole of the two cities of Washington and Georgetown until 1824, when the first of the many parishes now in the District of Columbia was created by the Vestry's consent.

CHRIST CHURCH

Sheet 2

HABS

D.C.

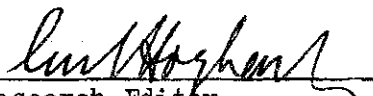
WASH

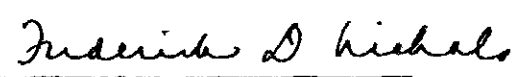
139.

The Washington Parish Burial Ground, better known as Congressional Cemetery was established by the vestry of Christ Church in 1807, and became soon afterwards the cemetery of Senators, Representatives, and executive officers. In 1816, Congress recognized its semi-official status by giving Christ Church financial assistance in order to insure the reservation of a section of the burial ground for the interment of Government officials.

Ref: Rev. J. H. Nelms - "Where Washington Worships"

Federal Writers Project - "Washington City and Capital"


Research Editor

 5/1/41
Approved

Addendum to
Christ Church
620 G Street, SE
Washington
District of Columbia

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

ADDENDUM
ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

HABS
DC,
WASH,
139-

STATE District of Columbia	COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY Washington
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Christ Church		HABS NO. DC-48
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 620 G Street, SE		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1806-1807	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Traditionally attributed to Benjamin Latrobe; recent attribution to Robert Alexander	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE)		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Gothic Revival		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Stuccoed brick		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) 46'-2" x 111'-8"; 1-story; gable roof; 3-story bell tower; projecting entrance vestibule at foot of tower		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Crenelated tower and parapets; applied buttresses; rosette and pointed arch windows		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Extended 20' in 1824; narthex and bell tower added 1849; apse added and stucco applied ca. 1877; numerous subsequent alterations, the latest in 1953-1954 by architect Horace Peaslee intended to harmonize previous alterations.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Schwartz, Nancy B. Historic American Buildings Survey District of Columbia Catalog, 1974. Listed on National Register of Historic Places Category II District of Columbia Landmark		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Druscilla J. Null, HABS		DATE 8/15/83